

Application No.: 10/767,747
Art Unit: 3751

Attorney Docket No. 23709.00
Confirmation No. 5713

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 5, 9, 12 and 20, and canceled Claims 2-4 and 8. Claims 1, 5-7 and 9-20 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 12 and 20 are independent claims.

In the recent Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jermann (U.S. Patent No. 5,148,553) Claims 3 and 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jermann in view of Gossett (U.S. Patent No. 2,769,982). The Examiner indicated that Claims 4-7 would be allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, and rewritten in independent form, and that Claims 12-20 would be allowable if amended to overcome Section 112 rejection.

Regarding the rejection based on indefiniteness, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 12 and 20 in the interest of clarity by changing the term "lip" in all occurrences to read -- rim-- . Also, the first occurrence of the terminology "said clip..." has been deleted from Claims 12 and 20. Applicants respectfully submits that Claims 1, 12 and 20, as amended, and their corresponding dependent claims meet the specific requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

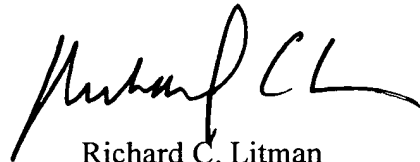
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The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In this regard, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 4, and intervening Claims 2 and 3. The incorporated claims have been canceled, and the dependency of Claim 5 has been changed to now depend from amended Claim 1. Claim 8 have been canceled to avoid duplication. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1, as amended, and corresponding dependent Claims 5-7 and 9-11 are allowable over the prior art of record.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard C. Litman' with a stylized 'CL' at the end.

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RCL:DHT